

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063683
ORIGIN NODS-00

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S E C R E T STATE 063683

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 3

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY-DOBRYNIN TELCON MARCH 10 AND
MEETING MARCH 11

1. IN A TELEPHONE CALL MARCH 10, DOBRYNIN TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT THE SOVIETS HAD COMMUNICATED US VIEWS TO THE ETHIOPIANS, ESPECIALLY OUR CONCERN OVER REPRISALS IN THE OGADEN AND THE SECRETARY'S WISH THAT THE ETHIOPIANS NOT ATTEMPT TO "BUTCHER" WITHDRAWING SOMALI TROOPS. ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED ENDORSEMENT OF THE US POSITION WHEN CONVEYING THE MESSAGE TO THE ETHIOPIANS, DOBRYNIN REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. DOBRYNIN ALSO SAID THAT MOSCOW BELIEVES THAT THIS CONSULTATION IS A HELPFUL STEP IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS READY TO RECIPROCATE.

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2. IN A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY MARCH 11, DOBRYNIN TOOK A MUCH MORE RESERVED POSITION ON ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE HORN THAN HE HAD DONE IN THIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION. WHILE HE REAFFIRMED SOVIET EFFORTS TO PRESS THE ETHIOPIANS NOT TO TAKE REPRISAL ACTIONS IN THE TERRITORY THEY REOCCUPIED, HE EXPRESSED SOME HESITATION ON THE ISSUE OF AN OBSERVER GROUP OR REDUCTIONS IN SOVIET OR CUBAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA. THE

SECRETARY REMINDED HIM OF THE PRIOR DISCUSSIONS AND TOLD HIM WE WANTED THEIR HELP ON THIS RIGHT AWAY TO STOP THE BLOODSHED.

3. DOBRYNIN SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERNS TO GROMYKO IMMEDIATELY AS WELL AS OUR CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL CUBAN TROOPS ON THE WAY, WHICH THE SECRETARY REQUESTED BE STOPPED.

4. WITH REGARD TO A REPORTED HARDENING OF ETHIOPIAN CONDITIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE, HE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION OTHER THAN PRESS REPORTS, WHICH HE WAS INCLINED TO DISCOUNT. THE SECRETARY TOLD HIM THIS WAS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO US AND REQUESTED THAT THEY WEIGH IN WITH THE ETHIOPIANS RIGHT AWAY.

5. THE SECRETARY ALSO WARNED DOBRYNIN ABOUT WITHDRAWING CUBAN TROOPS FROM THE OGADEN AND DEPLOYING THEM IN THE NORTH. HE STRESSED THAT WE HAD COMMON INTEREST TO PREVENT FURTHER BLOODSHED AND BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND THAT WE SHOULD PROMPTLY ACT TOGETHER TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

6. DOBRYNIN ALSO TRANSMITTED AN ORAL NOTE EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION COULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION BEFORE THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. VANCE

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